

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 SP-02 TRSE-00 EB-08 MCE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 /069 W
-----015187 061141Z /17

O 061130Z APR 78
FM USMISSION USNATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0513
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO USLOSACLANT NORFOLK VA
USNMR SHAPE BE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 03487

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO ETEL MARR MPOL
SUBJECT: NATO DEFENSE INITIATIVES: EXECUTIVE WORKING
GROUP (EWG) DISCUSSION OF THE TF-7 REPORT (ELECTRONIC
WARFARE)

REF: (A) USNATO 3455 DTG 051450Z APR 78, (B) STATE 87936
DTG 060042Z APR 78

1. REFS A AND B APPARENTLY CROSSED IN TRANSIT. WE SEEM TO
SHARE THE SAME CONCERN OVER THE ALLIES' INCOMPLETE KNOWLEDGE
OF TF-7'S RECOMMENDATIONS. AS WE STATED IN REF A, WE
BELIEVE THAT THE TF SHOULD BE THE ACTION POINT FOR FURTHER
DESCRIPTION OF ITS PROPOSALS. IN THEORY, AT LEAST, THE TF
SUBGROUPS EXAMINED NUMEROUS EW OPTIONS IN SOME DETAIL AND
FINALLY SELECTED THE LIMITED NUMBER (10) THAT EMERGED AS
TF-RECOMMENDED PROGRAMS. IT IS THEREFORE REASONABLE TO
EXPECT THAT THE TF ALREADY HOLDS INFORMATION SUFFICIENT TO
RESPOND TO THOSE NATIONS HAVING QUESTIONS. MOREOVER, BY
UTILIZING THE TF WE HOPE TO AVOID ANY HINT OF A US ATTEMPT
TO DOMINATE THE LTDP.

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2. WE NOTE THAT ONE OF THE ITEMS LISTED IN REF B IS NOT
INCLUDED IN THE TEN TF-7 RECOMMENDATIONS, I.E. HOMING
MUNITIONS. WE ARE CONCERNED THAT THE US NOT INTRODUCE ANY
NEW PROPOSALS AT THIS TIME. BEYOND THE POSSIBILITY THAT
THEY COULD CAUSE DELAY, WE FEAR THAT NATIONS COULD VERY
WELL MISINTERPRET OUR ACTION AS A SALES CAMPAIGN FOR US
HARDWARE AND, BECAUSE OF THIS, REACT NEGATIVELY TO ANY

SUGGESTION THAT THEY BE MORE FORTHCOMING IN THEIR ACCEPT-
ANCE OF THE EXISTING TF-7 RECOMMENDATIONS. THIS IS AN
ESPECIALLY SENSITIVE POINT IN ANYTHING PERTAINING TO EW
DUE TO THE OVERWHELMING SUPERIORITY OF US TECHNOLOGY IN
THIS WARFARE AREA.

3. BASED ON THE FOREGOING, WE RECOMMEND AGAINST A US OFFER
OF BRIEFINGS AT THIS TIME. WE DO BELIEVE THAT THE US
SHOULD STAND READY TO ASSIST THE TF DIRECTOR IF SO REQUEST-
ED, AND WE SUGGEST THAT THE US MIGHT PROPOSE THAT HE
CONSIDER A VISIT TO WASHINGTON SHOULD HE REQUIRE FURTHER
DETAIL ON US EW PROGRAMS. BENNETT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMITTEE MEETINGS, ELECTRONIC COUNTERMEASURES, DEFENSIVE WEAPONS SYSTEMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978USNATO03487
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780148-0877
Format: TEL
From: USNATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780483/aaaacsup.tel
Line Count: 73
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 46b2d4b4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 USNATO 3455, 78 STATE 87936
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3048359
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NATO DEFENSE INITIATIVES: EXECUTIVE WORKING GROUP (EWG) DISCUSSION OF THE TF-7 REPORT (ELECTRONIC WARFARE)
TAGS: ETEL, MARR, MPOL, NATO
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/46b2d4b4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014